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October 20, 1899

1816

[Inclosure.]

*Report of infectious disease in Japan from August 21 to August 31, 1899.*

Locality.	Cholera.		Dysentery.		Smallpox.		Plague.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Kioto Fu.....			198	49				
Osaka Fu.....			72	8				
Tokyo Fu.....	11	3	276	93				
Aichi Ken.....			80	11				
Akita Ken.....			16	1				
Awomori Ken.....			67	7				
Chiba Ken.....			186	51				
Fukui Ken.....			65	37				
Fukuoka Ken.....			58	9				
Fukuoshima Ken.....			1,310	189				
Gifu Ken.....			196	67				
Gumma Ken.....			338	78				
Hioho Ken.....			194	47				
Hiroshima Ken.....			100	34				
Ibaraki Ken.....			146	46				
Ishikawa Ken.....			173	48				
Iwate Ken.....			1,145	204				
Kagawa Ken.....			134	42				
Kagoshima Ken.....			166	32				
Kanagawa Ken.....			370	112				
Kochi Ken.....			72	20				
Kumamoto Ken.....			166	31				
Miyagi Ken.....			346	48				
Miyazaki Ken.....			69	10				
Miye Ken.....			40	14				
Nagano Ken.....			796	177				
Nagasaki Ken.....			65	21				
Nara Ken.....			11	4				
Niigata Ken.....			1,813	413				
Oita Ken.....			110	22				
Okayama Ken.....			180	63				
Okinawa Ken.....			35	7				
Saga Ken.....			35	8				
Saitama Ken.....			213	75				
Shidzuoka Ken.....			294	64				
Shiga Ken.....			39	13				
Shimane Ken.....			122	20				
Tochigi Ken.....			224	51				
Tokushima Ken.....			98	30				
Tottori Ken.....			55	21				
Toyama Ken.....			85	31				
Wakayama Ken.....			41	11				
Yamagata Ken.....			195	27				
Yamaguchi Ken.....			103	29				
Yamanashi Ken.....			421	99				
Yehime Ken.....			65	14				
The Hokkaido.....			2	1				
Taiwan (Formosa) a.....								

a No report.

MAURITIUS.

*Plague still prevalent.*

PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS, *August 29, 1899.*

SIR: Since the forwarding of my plague report of the 14th instant, I regret to say that the malady is still on the increase, as will be seen from the death rate and the number of victims daily attacked.

It will be also perceived that in the course of its development the disease has assumed a new phase. From recent bacteriological examinations made it has been discovered to be a form of pneumonic plague, and to be of an exceedingly contagious character.

The first victim of the new form was Mr. Johnson, of the colonial secretary's office, and also the first white man attacked in any form of the malady. By the death of Mr. Johnson, on account of his social position and standing in the colony, a heavy gloom has been thrown over the

white population. His sudden and untimely death, together with the circumstances connected with it, have elicited a deep sympathy for his devoted wife, who is the daughter of the late Protestant archdeacon of this diocese. Mrs. Johnson also caught the malady while nursing her husband. The doctors in her case, instead of applying the Haffkine remedy, treated her after Dr. Roux's specific. It seems the former is a preventive against the disease, whilst the latter is a curative. However, Mrs. Johnson has recovered.

The white population of the colony hitherto seemed to consider themselves invulnerable against contracting the disease. In the death of Mr. Johnson and the attack on Mrs. Johnson it has been proved that the hand of Providence exempts none on account of their condition, state, or color. Many other white folks have since been attacked and died, but little has been said about them.

Apropos to the contentions in the council of government (as will be seen from inclosed newspaper clippings), I may remark in this connection that there exists here what is called The Mauritius Turf (†) Club, composed of a few sportsmen who import here from Australia, every year, a few horses which have been already used up on the different race courses of that country. After a training here of the horses for three or four months the club gets up a fund which is distributed to the winning horses on each day of the races.

The races generally commence towards the end of August and last for three days. They are not much, considered from an American point of view, but there are so very few sources of amusement in Mauritius that during the three days on which the races are held large crowds assemble at Port Louis from all parts of the island.

It has been customary for the governor to declare the last day of the races a holiday. On this occasion the planters follow suit and give the poor Indians, who are slaving from one year's end to the other, a holiday. All these poor creatures leave their different districts on the evening before the races. Those who own an ass and cart ride in, with their families and their little provisions for their day's outing. Those who are less wealthy, with their wives and families, travel all night on foot in order to be present the next day at the Champs de Mars in Port Louis. The following day they all return to their respective plantations to toil for another year.

It will be seen from the newspaper clippings inclosed that a motion was offered in the council by the colonial secretary to prevent the Indians from coming to town this year on the last day of the races, and, indeed, to suspend the races altogether this year, as it was alleged that such gatherings caused spread of the plague. This motion was first carried by a majority of 1 vote. At the next meeting of the council the question was again brought before it. On this occasion there was a larger attendance, and the motion for holding the races was carried by a majority of 4, but excluding the last day's races at which the Indians assembled.

In the meantime, Mr. Johnson was attacked with, and died from, plague. This regrettable circumstance seemed to have panic-stricken the government and the whole council. The governor immediately called an extra session of the assembly when the motion of the colonial secretary was renewed and carried by a vote of 18 to 6. These 6 members did not consider the death of Mr. Johnson a sufficient cause to deprive the whole tax-paying community of their few days pleasure. However, the decision was final and no races were held this year.

The Mauritius Turf Club now raises the question of indemnity, and claims to have sustained heavy losses by the action of the governor and the decision of the majority of the council. One of the members of the club told me that he owned three horses which he valued at 3,000 rupees each, the cost of bringing them here together with the wages of jockies and the care and training of the horses here amounted to 5,000 rupees more; making a total for this member alone of about 14,000 rupees, not calculating their winning of the stakes. The other members of the club consider their horses either equal to or more than this gentleman's.

Then, again, the merchants claim that they have imported large stocks of goods which would have been readily disposed of if the races had been permitted to take place, but now are thrown on their hands as a dead loss, and also are claiming indemnity. The colony is already over-taxed, and what the consequence will be has yet to be demonstrated.

Respectfully, yours,

JOHN P. CAMPBELL,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

[The clippings referred to give, from August 10 to August 28, 68 cases and 42 deaths from plague.]

MEXICO.

*Reports from the City of Mexico, Monterey, and San Luis Potosi.*

CITY OF MEXICO, MEXICO, *October 3, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make my weekly report as follows: At the City of Mexico, for the week ended October 2, 157 passengers were inspected, 150 passed, and 7 detained and baggage (11 pieces) disinfected. Three passengers were remanded to the border for disinfection of baggage, in addition to the above. There were passed 4 cars of oranges from Yantepec, and 79 barrels of oranges shipped from the same place, but by express. At Monterey, for the week ended September 30, 40 passengers were inspected, 38 passed, and 2 detained and baggage (3 pieces) disinfected. At San Luis Potosi, for the week ended September 30, 31 passengers were inspected and passed. On October 2 (yesterday) Dr. Slabey, the Marine-Hospital Service inspector at Monterey, reported the presence of 7 cases of yellow fever in Tampico. I received a telegram at the same time from the consular officer at the latter place to the effect that there had been 4 deaths to date, but no new cases. Heavy rains and cool winds are reported at Monterey, the health of which city still remains good.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL,  
*U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.*

CITY OF MEXICO, MEXICO, *October 10, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make my weekly report as follows: At the City of Mexico for week ended October 9, 91 passengers were inspected, 86 passed, and 5 detained, and baggage (12 pieces) disinfected. In addition to these, 3 passengers were remanded and reported to the border for detention and disinfection. There were also passed 1 car and 90 barrels of oranges from Yantepec consigned to Laredo, Tex. At Monterey for the week ended October 7, 40 passengers were inspected, 38 passed, and 2 detained, and baggage (3 pieces) disinfected. At San Luis Potosi for the week ended October 7, 9 passengers were